

Mick Penfold writes - I feel I should try to clear up a few points over the German POL perfins. The 1928 cover spoken of by **Rolf Nievergelt** in the last issue is not unusual. In 1926 the Police headquarters in Berlin issued instructions that all mint postage stamps which were sent in to the various police offices, in payment for minor fines and fees etc; were to be sent to Police HQ where they would be perforated POL, and then returned to be used on outgoing mail. This scheme was adopted also in Frankfurt am Main in 1928, and the following year by Dortmund and Hagen. In March 1930 the Prussian Ministry of the Interior decreed that all police offices in Prussia should use these perforations, but they were to do it themselves. This resulted in many different manufacturers producing perforators, and although strict guidelines were given on size and lettering etc; it resulted in the 52 varieties listed in Michel that can be identified to their origin. A few offices had postal meters already in use and they were not affected. These perfins have been found as late as 1941. In 1945 some POL perfins began to appear again, using the original perforators. There are many false perfins on the market of this period and the only true check is if a good town postmark tallies with the identified die.

[Ed:- Our library contains a significant number of articles on the POL perfins of Germany for anyone interested in these perfins.]